



# Utah Bail Enforcement Newsletter

August 2008

## Upcoming Changes Regarding Bail Enforcement Licensure

### IMPORTANT UPDATES

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The purpose of this newsletter is to inform all licensees of some dramatic changes to the program. There is a perception that law enforcement and the community may not fully understand the bail enforcement industry. One reason is that there has never been any formal training (class room or firearms) other than the initial 16 hours mandated by Utah statute. This will be changing as of **January 1, 2009**. This requirement change will give bail enforcement more notoriety along with making sure everyone in the profession is working on the same level.

This newsletter will explain the upcoming changes and hopefully answer any questions you may have.

## Mandatory BCI Taught Training

Starting **January 1, 2009** all renewal licensees shall attend a **4-hour** training course taught by BCI as part of your mandatory 8 hours classroom training for licensure. This is to provide every licensee with updated/refresher information regarding Utah law, changes to the program, and any issues that may need to be addressed.

In the past there was no uniformity regarding ongoing training. Once licensed, it was left up to the licensee to attend whatever training they wanted (i.e. first aid, CPR, firearms, computer skills, etc.). Each licensee was left with the responsibility to learn about any changes or updates by whatever source available.

This new training will be advantageous and worth your time to attend.

All licensees are still required to attend 4 hours of additional classroom training at their discretion prior to renewing their license.

### 2009 Course Schedule and Registration Information

Monday - January 5, 2009 8am -12 (noon)  
Tuesday - April 21, 2009 8am - 12 (noon)  
Wednesday - July 15, 2009 8am - 12 (noon)  
Thursday - October 15, 2009 8am - 12 (noon)

- Registration cost for the course is \$10.
- Payment must be received on or before the class.
- Registration is on a first come first served basis.
- To register by phone or email contact: Whitney Thomsen at (801) 965-4738 or [wthomsen@utah.gov](mailto:wthomsen@utah.gov)



Address: BCI - **3888 West 5400 South** BCI is approximately 1 block west of the Bangerter Highway on 5400 South in Kearns. Turn west on 5400 South off of Bangerter Hwy. Approximately 1 block west of Bangerter Hwy there is a McDonald's Restaurant. BCI is a 1-story brick building behind the McDonald's.

## JAIL BOOKINGS

On August 1, 2008 every Sheriff's office and county jail facility throughout the state received a letter from BCI explaining some of the problems observed or discovered by the Bureau. The following list will provide you with the problems addressed:

1. Unlicensed persons have been arresting and booking individuals into the various county jails throughout the state.
2. Improperly licensed bail enforcement personnel have been booking individuals into the various county jails.
3. Bail enforcement personnel have displayed improper or no identification prior to booking an individual into a county jail facility.

BCI has provided a list of valid licensees and their license types to the jail facilities throughout the state. Those who are invalid or unlicensed will not be allowed to book an individual into the county jail and may face possible criminal penalties.

An updated list will be sent out once a quarter. This updated information hopefully will prevent individuals from trying to circumvent the law.

## Mandatory Firearms Courses

Another change affecting licensure starting January 1, 2009 involves a firearms qualification. In the past an applicant wanting to carry a firearm in the performance of his or her duties would take an initial 16-hour firearms course and pass a shooting test. With each renewal, no firearms training or qualification was required and BCI would simply place an endorsement on his or her license stating "Authorized to Carry Firearm." There are currently numerous licensees that have not taken any formal firearms training in many years or since the inception of licensure. This is obviously a major issue that needed to be addressed.

The Bail Bond Recovery Licensure Board along with BCI approved a new process for those wanting to carry a firearm while in the performance of his or her duties.

Upon each renewal, every licensee shall take an 8-hour firearms course designed for bail licensees and pass a shooting test, which was designed by BCI. Those instructors teaching the course are required to teach a set curriculum. This will eliminate any inconsistencies and to provide excellent training that can benefit you in the field.

It is your responsibility to contact an approved instructor from BCI's website at [www.bci.utah.gov](http://www.bci.utah.gov) and take the required course prior to submitting your renewal application. These instructors can be located by following the "bail enforcement" link.

The initial firearm course has not changed other than there are now several firearms instructors approved to teach the class.

## Keeping your Contact Information Updated with BCI

It is very important to make sure your contact information is kept updated (i.e. current mailing address and telephone number). This will insure that you are notified of any changes or updates to the bail program.

## Surety Bonds

Another change involves surety bonds. In the past surety bonds in the amount of \$10,000 were only required upon each renewal. Effective April 23, 2008, all licensees are required to have and maintain a \$10,000 surety bond.

There are a fair amount of licensees that possess a surety bond but not bail specific. There are many licensees that are also licensed Private Investigators. Those licenses are completely separate and will be treated as such, meaning a separate surety bond is required for each license. In the past BCI has accepted surety bonds that do not specifically state bail enforcement. To those that this applies, you will receive a letter shortly after receiving this newsletter. You are responsible to obtain the proper surety bond. Those who do not have a bail specific surety bond will be given a grace period until January 1, 2009 to obtain one. Those who fail to update their files with the proper surety bond will be suspended.

## Closing Remarks

The above changes involving licensure will only enhance the bail profession, making you more knowledgeable and proficient in your job, and hopefully to assist you with obtaining the tools required to be effective in the workplace. BCI wants to express it's appreciation for your willingness to work in a profession that is very demanding and sometimes less glamorous along with being acceptable to the same stresses similar to law enforcement. **BE SMART AND BE SAFE**

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact BCI at (801) 965-4445.